

**Hillside Federation  
Newsletter  
October, 2012**



[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

***Who Will Lead  
Los Angeles?***

The Hillside Federation is hosting a mayoral candidate forum on Wednesday, October 3. Ask these candidates how they will serve you.



Jan Perry



Wendy Greuel



Kevin James



Eric Garcetti

**Agenda  
October 3, 2012  
7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order  
Mayoral Candidate Forum
  - Jan Perry
  - Kevin James
  - Eric Garcetti
  - Wendy Greuel
- Guest speaker - Sheila Irani CD 4 -  
Smokey Bear campaign
- II. Approval of Sept. 5, 2012 minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
  - A. President's Report
  - B. Treasurer's Report
- IV. New Business
  - A. Los Virgenes Homeowners  
Federation - Kim Lamorie
- V. Old Business
  - A. NBC Universal update - Krista  
Michaels, Wendy-Sue Rosen
  - B. Linda Flora update - Steve Twining
  - C. Cell Towers update - Chris Spitz
- VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012

**Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli**  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604  
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit  
and Laurel Canyon exit

***Hillside Federation mission:*** *To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.*

## Jan Perry

Jan grew up in the suburbs of Cleveland where her parents participated in civil rights campaigns. She transferred from Case Western to USC in 1974 and immediately looked for volunteer opportunities here. One of her first volunteer opportunities was at the Joint Educational Project, the literacy and tutoring program for elementary school kids in South Los Angeles. The experience motivated her to continue serving her community. She earned a Bachelors and Masters Degree at USC, married and began work as a paralegal. She became active in her local community eventually serving as president of her homeowners association. In 1990, she was offered a position as Planning Deputy at the Office of Los Angeles City Councilman Mike Woo. In 1993, she was asked to serve as Chief of Staff in CD 9. In 2000 she ran to represent CD 9. She secured over \$70 million for park and recreation facilities for her district including two award winning wetland projects in South Los Angeles. She worked with developers both for-profit and not-for-profit to urge the construction of 5,000 units of affordable housing.

## Kevin James

Kevin received his undergraduate degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1985, and obtained his Juris Doctorate from the University of Houston Law Center in 1988. Kevin began his legal career in 1988 with one of the most prestigious law firms in the country – Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher where he practiced in the firm's Litigation Department learning legal strategy and negotiation skills and tactics from some of the most respected attorneys in California. Then he worked for the US Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney in Los Angeles where he used forfeiture laws to disband criminal enterprises. In 1992, Kevin received the Director's Award for Superior Performance. In 1993, Kevin returned to private practice where his experience ranged from the entertainment industry to personal litigation, and representing large corporate clients. Kevin donates his legal expertise to local charities including AIDS Project Los Angeles. Kevin works tirelessly to expose the failed policies of current City leadership, to shine the light on the fiscal mismanagement of the City, and to expose a culture of corruption in City government. In early 2003, Kevin began his talk radio career as a legal analyst. Kevin hosted "Red Eye Radio" from early 2005 until April 2007 and "The Kevin James Show" on 870 KRLA. He is an avid sports fan and a strong advocate for pet adoption.

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 <a href="mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org">president@hillsidefederation.org</a> <a href="http://www.hillsidefederation.org">www.hillsidefederation.org</a>	<b>ORGANIZATIONS:</b> Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Ridge Association Bel Air Skycrest POA Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Hills Homeowners Brentwood Residents Coalition Cahuenga Pass Property Owner Canyon Back Alliance Crests Neighborhood Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.	Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon Assn. Lookout Mountain Assn. Los Feliz Improvement Assn. Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr/Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Oaks Homeowners Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Pacific Palisades Residents Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA	Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.  <b>CHAIRPERSONS</b> <b>EMERITUS</b> Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Polly Ward  <b>CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM</b> Brian Moore
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## Eric Garcetti

A fourth-generation Angeleno, Garcetti was raised in the San Fernando Valley. Both sides of his family first settled in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights neighborhood, on one side after escaping the violence of the Mexican revolution, on the other amidst the persecution of Jews in Russia. Garcetti studied urban planning and political science at Columbia University, where he received his B.A. and M.A. in International Relations. He also studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and the London School of Economics and was a Rockefeller Foundation Next Generation Leadership Fellow. He taught public policy, diplomacy and world affairs at Occidental College and the University of Southern California before being elected to the City Council. Garcetti has been widely recognized for his groundbreaking policy initiatives. His environmental work was honored with the Green Cross Millennium Award from former President Mikhail Gorbachev. He won a Tiger Award from the Valley Industry and Commerce Association for spearheading business tax reforms. The Kennedy Library and family, presented Garcetti with the prestigious New Frontier Award, which is given annually to an elected official under 40 who best embodies John F. Kennedy's vision of leadership and idealism. Garcetti is an avid photographer, jazz pianist and composer and is an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He lives in Silver Lake with his wife, Amy.

## Wendy Greuel

A lifelong Angeleno, Wendy Greuel started her career in public service in the office of former Mayor Tom Bradley, eventually becoming deputy to the Mayor. While in the Mayor's office, Wendy worked to start LA's Best, a nationally recognized after school program that provides a safe and supervised environment for children in neighborhoods most vulnerable to gangs, drugs, and crime. Then Wendy worked as a senior advisor at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development where she helped secure over a billion dollars in support to victims of the Northridge Earthquake. In 1997, Wendy became an executive at DreamWorks Pictures where she worked for five years. In 2002, she was elected to the Los Angeles City Council. One of her most prominent accomplishments was her leadership on business tax reform. Ultimately these reforms eliminated the business tax for over 60% of the city's small businesses and made the tax system more equitable with neighboring jurisdictions. At the same time, it allowed Los Angeles to remain a lucrative destination for businesses. In 2009, Wendy was elected Controller for the City of Los Angeles. As Controller, she is the taxpayer's watchdog, and is responsible for ensuring that the city is held accountable for its actions. Wendy has focused on providing greater transparency and openness in how taxpayer dollars are spent. She has already conducted more than 60 audits and uncovered nearly \$130 million dollars that the city has lost to waste, fraud and abuse over the last three years. She expanded the city's Fraud, Waste, and Abuse hotline to accommodate whistleblower tips in more than 150 languages. She currently lives in Studio City with her husband Dean Schramm and their nine-year old son Thomas.

### **Bringing an Issue to the Federation**

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website [www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)) with documentation and send it to [president@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org) no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.

## Touring the District on Friday, September 14

by Chris Carradine

Despite the blistering 100 degree heat of a lovely summer's afternoon in our beloved Santa Monica Mountains, Federation President Marian Dodge, Alan Kishbaugh, Anita Sokolsky, Carol Sidlow and Wendy-Sue Rosen (our photographer) met Assemblymember Betsy Butler for an escorted "bus" tour of the Mulholland Drive Scenic Corridor and the fabled Canyon neighborhoods of Lookout Mountain and Wonderland Avenues. Appropriate for any visit to Laurel Canyon, we met at TreePeople and loaded into a Carradine family vintage Volkswagen Bus. For two hours, Chris Carradine and your illustrious colleagues then advised Betsy on the recent history of the canyon and the important environmental and developmental issues at stake in preserving the mountains and canyons we love and live in. Assemblymember Butler came away with what all felt was a greatly enhanced commitment and sense of the challenges faced by the legislature as it supports the Hillside Federation's continuing effort to protect our environment.



Wendy-Sue Rosen

*Alan Kishbaugh, Marian Dodge, Carol Sidlow,  
Chris Carradine, Anita Sokolsky, Assemblymember  
Betsy Butler*

## Cell Towers to Be Regulated

by Chris Spitz & Barbara Kohn



Until recently, obtrusive utility pole cell towers located in residential neighborhoods—like the one depicted—have been completely unregulated in Los Angeles. The City's regulations governing structures in sidewalks and parkways (the Above Ground Facilities or AGF Ordinance) contain an exemption for all utility poles, a loophole that the telecom industry has been exploiting as it seeks to erect more antennas to meet coverage demands resulting from exploding smartphone usage. In the past few years horrified residents throughout Los Angeles have reported opening their front doors to see similar structures erected virtually overnight, with no prior notice, no opportunity to object and no required permit process. Led by the four-year effort of Chris Spitz and Barbara Kohn of Pacific Palisades Residents Association, the Hillside Federation was among the many City-wide organizations and coalitions seeking reform of the AGF Ordinance to better protect residential neighborhoods.

The City Council listened and took action on September 11, 2012, directing the City Attorney to draft much-needed amendments to the Ordinance—including, most important, eliminating the utility pole exemption; expanding the notice requirements to 250 linear feet in either direction of the proposed facility; enhancing the aesthetic provisions (exact language to be determined); and requiring RF emissions certification and proof of

"gap-in-coverage" by permit applicants. Although recommended by two Council Committees and the City Attorney, the full Council did not agree to impose permit duration limits. The Council also declined to enact an Interim Control Ordinance or temporary moratorium, as the Federation and others had urged. Even so, with elimination of the utility pole exemption and the other significant changes, the amended AGF Ordinance will be a huge improvement over the old regulations. There is no word yet on when the draft amendments will be completed, but we are hopeful that an amended Ordinance will be enacted in the near future.

*[Note: The cell tower ordinance is thanks to the tenacious work of Chris Spitz & Barbara Kohn.]*

**Save these dates for Hillside  
Federation meetings**

**November 7  
December 5 Holiday Party  
January 9  
February 6  
March 6  
April 3  
May 1**

**Hillside Federation  
Draft Minutes  
September 5, 2012**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:20. President Marian Dodge was in attendance but suffering from laryngitis. Members introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

No corrections were made to the July 11<sup>th</sup> minutes. The minutes were approved.

**III. Guest Speakers**

**Paul Edelman, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)**

Paul Edelman spoke regarding measures HH and MM on the November 6<sup>th</sup> ballot. The special assessments created by these two measures will allow the MRCA to continue acquiring land and providing essential services in the Santa Monica Mountains, including trash pickup; maintenance of overlooks, trails, watersheds; ongoing land, water quality and wildlife protection services; and fire prevention services, ranger services and patrol.

Measure HH proposes a \$24 per year assessment on parcels from the 405 east to Griffith Park, and funds will be earmarked for services in that area of the Santa Monica Mountains. Total assessments for this district will come to about \$685,000 a year.

Measure MM proposes a \$19 per year assessment on parcels west of the 405, from Mulholland Drive north to the Valley floor, and funds will be earmarked for hillside services in Encino, Tarzana, and Woodland Hills. Total assessments for this district will come to about \$315,000 a year.

All assessment money will be locally raised and locally spent. Only developed parcels will be assessed. If a house straddles two parcels, only one will be assessed. Only those subject to the particular assessment will vote on it. These special assessments will last a maximum of ten years and will be subject to independent citizen oversight.

For more information go to [www.yesonhh.org](http://www.yesonhh.org) or [www.yesonmm.org](http://www.yesonmm.org)

MOTION: Carol Sidlow moved to support the two assessments; seconded by Bob Locker. The motion passed.

### **Jackie Hunsicker, “No Litter Zone”**

Longtime resident Jackie Hunsicker has made cleaning up the litter in the Coldwater Canyon/Mulholland Drive area her personal cause. At first she did all the work herself, then she hired a helper. After years of self-funding, she is asking for support and donations from HOAs and individuals alike and for ideas on how to raise money and expand her “No Litter Zone” organization (website: nolitterzone.com) to other communities. Carol Sidlow recommended that everyone support Jackie and her efforts and commended her for having made “a visible and dramatic difference.”

## **III. Officers’ Reports**

### **A. President’s Report – Marian Dodge**

Marian sent a get well card on behalf of the Federation to CD-11 Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

The Federation’s annual holiday party has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Mulholland Tennis Club.

The Federation will host a Mayoral Candidates Forum at its October meeting.

A judge temporarily halted the sale of UCLA’s Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, but it is still in danger. The LA Conservancy is asking that people continue to support it.

Assemblyman Blumenfeld has introduced a new measure that will define mobile billboards on the backs of trailers.

### **B. Treasurer’s Report – Don Andres**

Don reported on the account balances. All bills are paid. Membership is currently at 40, which is the best it has been in six years.

Don announced that he is looking for volunteers to work on the holiday party.

Don also reported on a July 23<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee meeting discussion of how to evaluate requests for financial support. The Executive Committee is in the process of drafting a policy based on past history. Looking back over 12 years of records, Don found only a very few donations (TreePeople, the Southwest Museum) and one major lawsuit, in which the Federation was a co-

litigant. Special provisions were made to acquire money for this lawsuit. There were no donations to individual member associations, and all the causes supported had Federation-wide and citywide ramifications: billboard blight, density ordinance, etc. Don is doing further research to determine whether additional rules may apply as the Federation is now a 501(c)(3).

Charley moved to receive and file the treasurer’s report. Wendy seconded. The motion passed.

### **C. Communications Tower Update – Vice President Wendy-Sue Rosen**

Wendy reported on a last minute gut-and-amend passed by the legislature, exempting 286 communications towers in the City of L.A. from environmental review, including the 180-foot tower at San Vicente Peak on the Mulholland Corridor, in the middle of Conservancy land.

## **IV. New Business**

### **A. Community Care Facilities Ordinance – Maria Fisk (Granada Hills)**

Maria reported on an ordinance drafted by the City Attorney that would regulate group homes. There has been a proliferation of these homes, which are essentially unlicensed boarding houses, in residentially zoned neighborhoods, including hillside areas, over the past several years, and this ordinance would be a regulating tool. The motion, which was authored and is being promoted by Councilmember Englander, would regulate leases in single family residential areas and will not affect state licensed homes.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Federation support the proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance as drafted. The motion carried with one abstention.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. 9169 W. Crescent Drive – Steven Poster**

After more than a year of waiting, a determination has finally been issued on this 12,000 square foot home on a very substandard road. In spite of strong opposition, which included the Federation and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the determination allowed every deviation from code that had been requested. According to those who attended the hearing, the

Hearing Officer did not respond to community questions and concerns, and there was no Staff Report and little due diligence. An appeal has been filed with the West LA Planning Commission, objecting to and appealing every part of the determination. The Federation will write a letter supporting the appeal.

#### B. Stanley Hills Drive Lawsuit – Tony Tucci

Tony gave an update on the ongoing dispute and neighbors' lawsuit over a project on Stanley Hills Drive.

MOTION: Speaking on behalf of Cassandra Barrère, Tony moved that the Federation make a financial contribution of \$3,000 to help continue the fight to keep the Stanley Hills Wildlife Corridor intact. The motion died for lack of second.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and MRCA attest to the value of the wildlife corridor in question but have not contributed financially. The Federation has already written 5 letters.

#### C. NBC Universal – Marian Dodge

Marian reported on the new iteration of the massive NBC Universal Evolution project, from which the residential component has been removed in exchange for more hotel units, which will be an improvement in terms of impact.

When the Draft EIR came out, they said the project would comply with the Mulholland Specific Plan, but they then proposed removing two acres of land from the Mulholland Scenic Corridor (in order to allow electronic billboards). They also claimed that the project site was not a true wildlife corridor. (Mountain lion P 22 apparently didn't read the EIR.) The Federation wrote a letter at that time. The amendment to the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan is still part of the Final EIR. The CPC hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> in Van Nuys.

#### D. Cell Towers Ordinance – Chris Spitz (Pacific Palisades)

In April, 2010 the Federation and 50 other organizations citywide came up with a motion which was submitted to the City Council asking for adoption of a comprehensive ordinance with clear and consistent procedures regulating cell towers. The City Council finally came out with

the report last year. PLUM and Public Works adopted recommendations, and it is now going to full Council on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has written a letter with additional requests that would bring the ordinance in line with those of other cities. These include elimination of the utility pole provision, expanded area of notice, enhancement of aesthetic provisions, imposition of permit duration limits, expansion of right of appeal to all aggrieved persons; also a requirement for the applicant to map all existing and future facilities in area – a kind of cell towers master plan. Chris also spoke of the need for a temporary moratorium or interim ordinance while the ordinance is being drafted, although this is not part of the PPCC letter.

MOTION: Bob Locker moved to support the ordinance and adopt the additional conditions. The motion carried.

Chris Spitz was lauded by the Federation for the phenomenal work she has done on this ordinance

#### E. Grand View Drive – Tony Tucci

Zoning Administrator Maya Zaitzevsky denied everything in the Grand View Drive determination. A win for the neighborhood and for the Federation.

#### F. Tower Lane update – Nickie Miner

A Saudi prince is building a giant complex. Neighbors sued on a very narrow issue and lost. There is much more to go on this project. Nickie will keep us informed.

#### G. Linda Flora update – Steve Twining

The haul route hearing for the Linda Flora project was postponed and is now set for September 18<sup>th</sup>. The developer has recirculated an inadequate MND. The Federation already took a position to recommend postponement of the hearing.

MOTION: Steve Twining moved that the Federation oppose the MND for the Linda Flora project due to inadequate project description and other inaccuracies and failure to address the severe environmental issues. The motion passed.

H. Due Process lawsuit – Dan Wright, Silverstein Law Firm

There was a major victory with Judge Jones on the Hollywood Gower project. Judge Jones sent the project back on grounds of CEQA and due process violations. A recent *LA Weekly* article used this project to show the egregious way the City treats the public throughout the administrative process. In this case it was discovered that key information (new findings with a 56-page parking study) needed for decision-making was added at the last minute, had not been reviewed by the decision makers, and was not posted for the public until the day after the hearing. Judge Jones said this was a violation of due process. (The City purposely conflates Brown Act with your right as an appellant to Due Process of Law. Not the same thing.) A writ of mandate was issued that requires complete overturn and a new EIR.

If anyone has appeals coming, talk to Dan.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

George Abrahams gave a post-adjournment update on the Hollywood Community Plan lawsuit.

Acting Secretary Lois Becker

**Members Present:**

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Residents	Tom Freeman
Canyon Back Alli.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin Ave/Hlywd Bl	Don Andres
Franklin Hills	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland HOA	Lucy Gonzalez
Kagel Canyon Civic	Kit Paull
Lake Hollywood	Tom Workman
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Jim Nelson
	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Carolyn Carradine
	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington Alli.	Daniel Wright
Oak Forest Canyon	Arnold Newman
Pacific Palisades Res.	Robert Locker
	Chris Spitz
Res. Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks HOA	Niles Chapman, MD
Studio City Residents	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	James Provenzano

**Guests:**

MRCA	Paul Edelman
	Carolyn Atchison
No Litter Zone	Jackie Hunsicker
Granada Hills	Maria Fisk
resident	Paul Shepherd
	Anita Sokolsky